



STUDY ISLAND AT ARBOR HEIGHTS

Study Island is a fun internet based program which can be used anywhere that internet access is available. This program has been purchased by the Arbor Heights PTA this year for all students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Study Island directly covers all of the subjects in the Washington State standards upon which the state MSP (Measurement of Student Progress) Test is based. It presents questions which are similar to those found in the MSP and MAP tests and does an excellent job of preparing students for those tests.

Using Study Island is easy.

1. Go to <http://www.studyisland.com>

2. Login using the student's assigned login name and password. (normally the students first name plus the first letter of their last name, plus ".ah"). So for "John Blake", the **login and password** would be simply "johnb.ah". Or, contact your teacher for your username and password.

3. Select **grade level** on the left hand side.

4. Select **Math or Reading** and then select a **topic**.

5. Select **test mode (just questions) or play a game** (kids like the game reward)

6. Answer questions. If you get at least 7 out of 10 questions correctly, you earn a blue ribbon! You can go back and retake sections where a ribbon was not earned and there are lessons that can be previewed prior to testing or retesting.

If your student is able to earn a blue ribbon in each of the 50 topic areas in Study Island, they should do well on the MSP. If we are able to get a high participation rate and complete the program this year, we should see a dramatic increase in our pass rates. Last year, Arbor Heights students answered over 94,000 questions on Study Island. Our 4th graders made dramatic gains in the state MSP math test last year going from a 29.5% pass rate in 2010 to a whopping 73.0% pass rate in 2011 - beating both district and state averages! It would be great to see similar gains in all grades this year.

Strategies:

- Set aside a regular time for Study Island and have them spend a half hour or earn a blue ribbon in any topic - whichever comes first.
- Treat Study Island time as a "reward" (this works better with younger kids☺)
- Use Study Island to balance out other screen time so that every half hour spent on Study Island earns an equal amount of time for computer games or TV.
- Offer a special activity or some small reward blue ribbons.
- The blue ribbon means that they have mastered that test subject.
- Keep them moving to different topics.
- Keep it fun!

If you don't have internet access at home, you can visit your public library which offers free internet access. You might also visit a classmate, neighbor or friend who has internet access. Your student's teacher may assign sections or make suggestions, but don't feel limited by them. The power of Study Island is that it can be a **home-driven** learning tool which can be used to enhance your student's learning. Start at the top and encourage your student to work their way down the list of topics until they have tried every topic at least once.

If your student did not score as highly as you expected on the MSP test last year, please take advantage of Study Island to help your student improve this year. This is one area where parents can directly help their students raise the test scores at AH by filling in the gaps between district curriculum and state standards. It is an unfortunate reality that the standards tested and the curriculum set forth by the district can be two completely different things and this makes it nearly impossible to do well on these tests without some form of supplementation. The sobering statistic is that only 49% of our 5th graders passed the reading MSP test and only 57% of our 3rd graders passed the math MSP last year. There is definitely room for improvement. No matter how you feel about this testing, it is a fact that our children do need to have mastery over the topics covered in the Washington State standards in order to do well in their future grades.

Study Island is being administered by Franklin Hu, Arbor Heights Parent/PTA member. If you have any questions about Study Island, please email franklinhu@yahoo.com. You may also directly call the Study Island help line at 800-419-3191 or email support@studyisland.com. -Welcome to Study Island!